

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, prior to the Title, please insert:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Page 1, please replace paragraph 1, lines 1-4 with the following paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

**STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR
DEVELOPMENT**

Not Applicable

THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

Not Applicable

**INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A
COMPACT DISC**

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[001] The present invention relates to a switching device, especially a door contact switch. The invention further relates to an arrangement for detecting different positions of a door element. The invention further relates to a household appliance.

Description of Related Art

Page 2, prior to line 1, please insert:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, lines 4-14, please replace paragraph [005] with the following:

[005] This object is solved in the present switching device by an operative connection between a mechanical switching element and an electrical switch actuated thereby being separable. The switching device according to the invention thus makes it possible to deactivate as required an electrical switching function normally triggered by the switching element. Such a switching function can, for example, be cooking chamber lighting which can be switched on by opening a baking oven door in a cooking appliance. The electrical switching function can, for example, also switch off an electrical hot air fan of an oven muffle of a cooking appliance when a door to the cooking chamber is opened. In this way, the switching-on and switching-off function for the cooking chamber lighting and/or for further loads can be deactivated by separating the operative connection between switching element and electrical switch.

Page 4, lines 13-24, please delete paragraph [013] and insert the following:

[013] An arrangement according to the invention for detecting at least two different positions of a movable door element that provides that an operative

connection between the door element and the switching device according to the invention can be separated. In this arrangement, the striker can be brought out of the region of engagement of the door element, for example, by displacement or lowering. The striker can optionally also be lowered by means of a link mechanism, similar to a ball pen mechanism, and can thus be brought out of the region of engagement of the door element. As a result of lowering the striker, the door no longer reaches the striker in the closed state. The switching function normally triggered with a displacement of the striker from its first operating position into the second operating position is no longer triggered. As a result of the striker being released by the user, the door again reaches the striker in the closed state. The switching function which can thereby be triggered, is triggered again.

Page 5, lines 7-9, please replace paragraph [016] with the following:

[016] The switching device according to the invention or the arrangement according to the invention is especially suitable for incorporation into a household appliance.

Page 5, prior to line 17, please insert:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

Page 5, prior to line 26, please insert:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION